

At Hanford's Central Waste Complex, waste is stored, treated and repackaged as required for disposal.



The U.S. Department of Energy and contractor Central Plateau Cleanup Company are safely and compliantly managing radioactive and mixed waste stored at the Central Waste Complex at the Hanford Site in southeastern Washington state.

Background

Hanford's Central Waste Complex (CWC) is a storage and treatment unit located in the center of the Hanford Site.

At the facility, workers store mixed low-level waste and other waste types requiring treatment before disposal. Waste stored at the CWC will be treated and repackaged at onsite or offsite facilities as required for disposal.

The CWC has approximately 300,000 square feet of storage space — the equivalent of six football fields. The facility has 7 large storage buildings, 12 small storage buildings, and 5 areas for outdoor storage.

Mission

Waste stored at the CWC comes primarily from onsite sources, such as retrieved waste from burial grounds and waste generated by work at other Hanford facilities. Eventually, final disposition of the waste stored at the CWC will be at an onsite landfill or at the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant in New Mexico.

Currently, approximately 11,000 waste containers, mostly 55-gallon drums, are located inside CWC storage buildings. The waste containers are inspected weekly to ensure safe and compliant storage. The CWC facilities can be viewed using the self-guided [Hanford Virtual Tour](#).



Workers load a waste container at the Central Waste Complex for shipment to an offsite waste repackaging facility.



Workers install a box cover over a large container at the Central Waste Complex.

